DA Calls Marina Oswald

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MRS. KENNETH J. PORTER
"Marina Oswald"

The district attorney's office today issued a subpena for Mrs. Marina Oswald, Russian-born widow of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

District Attorney Jim Garrison wants Mrs. Oswald, now Mrs. Kenneth Jess Porter of Richardson, Tex., to testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 and 9 in his probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

ASSISTANT DA JAMES L. Alcock said investigators want to ask the woman about the activities and associates of Oswald while he was living in New Orleans during the summer of 1963. Garrison contends the assassination was plotted here during that period.

The official Warren Commission report concluded that Oswald shot Kennedy to death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Contacted by telephone, Mrs. Porter said:

"It is a surprise to me."

Asked if she could contribute anything to Garrison's investigation, she replied:

"No, I don't believe so."

Asked whether she planned to come to New Orleans, she said:

"No, but I may have to."

hate to go down there because Mr. Garrison is so powerful. I don't know if I could prove my innocence to him."

Mrs. Porter said she talked last year with attorneys for Clay Shaw, whom Garrison has charged with conspiracy in the Kennedy slaying, and "I told them I would testify in his trial."

But she added her willingness to testify in Shaw's trial does not indicate she knows anything about him.

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"I just want to do the right thing if he is an innocent man," she said. "But I don't think I could help in Mr. Garrison's work."

Alcock said a copy of the subpena would be sent to Dallas DA Henry Wade. Richardson is a suburb of Dallas.

The procedure then is for Wade to file a rule to have the woman brought into court there, where a hearing will be held on her return if she does not do so voluntarily.

The court must then decide if her testimony is material or if it would create a hardship for her to come to New Orleans.

"I DON'T see how any court would say her testimony was not material in this case," said Alcock.

Oswald married Marina, now 26, while he was living in Russia as a U.S. defector. She remarried in 1965, about a year and a half after Oswald was shot to death in the Dallas jail by Jack Ruby two days after Kennedy was killed.

She has two children by Oswald and one by her new husband.

Marina has said she believes her late husband killed the President. She cooperated with the Warren Commission in its investigation. She has denied knowing any of the principals Garrison contends plotted the assassination with Oswald in New Orleans.

Alcock said today "we have some very interesting questions to ask Mrs. Oswald."

HER SUBPENA is for the same day as one issued to Kerry Thornely, an associate of Oswald in the Marine Corps, who Garrison claims also knew him in New Orleans.

It grants her immunity from prosecution while in the state.

The subpena was signed by Criminal District Judge Matthew S. Braniff, and a check for $120 for her travel expenses was ordered drawn from the fines and fees fund.